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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 ADS-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 COME-00  
CTME-00 C-01 DODE-00 DOEE-00 ANHR-01 DS-00 EB-01  
EXIM-06 E-01 FRB-03 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01  
ITC-01 JUSE-00 LAB-04 L-03 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01  
OPIC-08 PA-01 PM-01 PRS-01 P-01 SCT-03 SNP-01  
SP-01 SSO-00 SS-01 STR-18 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00  
/086W

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O 292214Z AUG 91  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0349  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

RELEASED IN FULL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior  
Reviewer

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PINS, PTER, ECON, ENRG, ES  
SUBJECT: GOES OFFICIAL CHARGES ELECTRIC RATIONING  
- DUE TO FMLN SABOTAGE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 10911

1. (U) DURING AN AUGUST 28 NEWS CONFERENCE, COLONEL  
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SIGIFREDO OCHOA PEREZ, PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE  
HYDROELECTRIC COMMISSION (CEL), CHARGED THAT THE FMLN  
HAD DESTROYED FOUR HIGH TENSION LINES THAT  
MORNING--NECESSITATING FURTHER POWER RATIONING.  
CURRENTLY, ELECTRICITY IS CUT FROM 10PM TO 5AM  
PRINCIPALLY DUE TO THE SEVERE DROUGHT GRIPPING THE  
COUNTRY (REFTEL). THE DOWNED LINES RUN FROM; SANTA ANA  
TO GUAJOYO, OPICA TO NEJAPA, 15 DE SEPTIEMBRE TO SAN  
MIGUEL, AND NUEVO CUSCATLAN TO SONSONATE.

2. (U) AN AUGUST 26 COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED BY THE FMLN  
GENERAL COMMAND, CALLED FOR INTENSIFIED ATTACKS  
AGAINST THE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE OF EL SALVADOR.  
THE COMMUNIQUE STATED IN PART THAT "ARENA'S ECONOMIC  
POLICY AND ITS CLOSURE OF THE FOOD REGULATORY  
INSTITUTE, (IRA) WHICH HAVE BEEN REPUDIATED BY ALL  
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL FORCES OF THE COUNTRY HAVE

AGGRAVATED SOCIAL TENSIONS TO AN EXPLOSIVE LEVEL." IN THE FACE OF SUCH A SITUATION THE FMLN CALLED FOR, "INTENSIFIED SABOTAGE AGAINST THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF THE POWERFUL, AS A RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES." THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO CALLED FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF ALL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP PUSH THE GOVERNMENT TOWARDS PEACE.

3. (C) COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ENERGY RATIONING UP UNTIL NOW HAS BEEN CORRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE DROUGHT, THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE FMLN'S SABOTAGE OF THE ELECTRICAL POWER GRID. BY PUBLICLY CALLING FOR FURTHER ATTACKS ON THE "ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE" AND THE POWER GRID, THE FMLN HAS PLAYED RIGHT INTO THE  
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HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH CAN NOW SHIFT THE FOCUS OF THE PROBLEM FROM THE DROUGHT TO FMLN SABOTAGE.  
WALKER

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